

Serial No. 10/660,952

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REMARKSI. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated January 11, 2007, claims 3, 12 and 21 have been canceled, and claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 13, 14, 19, 22 and 23 have been amended. Claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20 and 22-27 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Statutory Subject Matter Rejection

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 19-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicants' attorney has amended the claims as indicated above to overcome these rejections.

However, should issues still remain in this regard, Applicants' attorney requests that the Examiner indicate how the rejection can be overcome, in accordance with the directives of the Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility (Interim Guidelines) II. Specifically, should it be necessary, the Applicants' attorney requests that the Examiner identify features of the invention that would render the claimed subject matter statutory if recited in the claim. See Interim Guidelines IV.B.

III. Prior Art Rejections

On pages 2 and 3, the Office Action rejected claims 1, 10 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as unpatentable over McDowell. However, on page 3, the Office Action indicates that the subject matter of claims 2-9 and 11-18 would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants' attorney acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter. Moreover, Applicants' attorney has amended independent claims 1, 10 and 19 to incorporate the limitations of allowable dependent 3, 12 and 21 (now canceled), which renders independent claims 1, 10 and 19 allowable as well.

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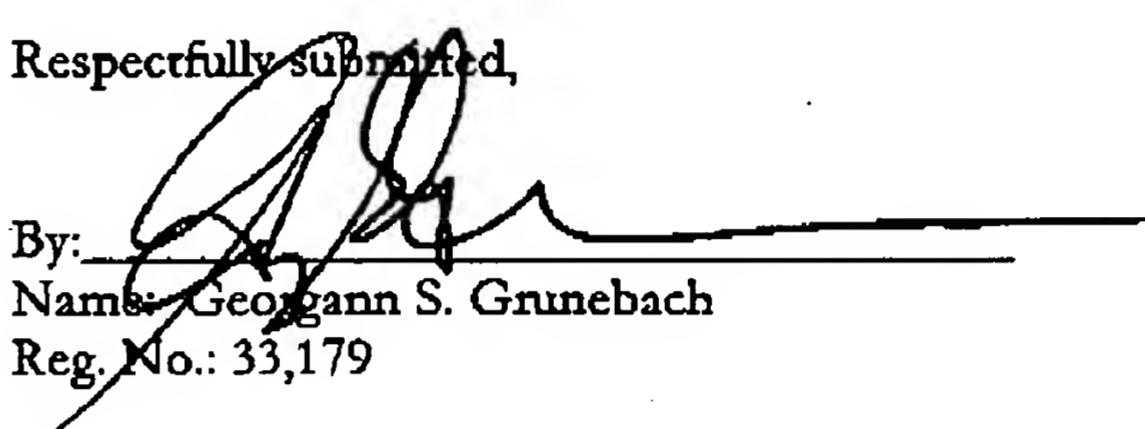
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IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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